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PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS

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VACCINATION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

COURT DECIDES THAT A LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH MAY REQUIRE ALL CHILDREN ATTENDING CERTAIN SCHOOLS TO BE VACCINATED.

The Board of Health of Jefferson County, Ky., issued an order requiring that all children attending schools in School District No. 46, Highland Park, Ky., must be vaccinated, excepting such children as had been successfully vaccinated within seven years.

The board of trustees of the school district resisted the enforcement of the order, but the Court of Appeals of Kentucky decided that the board was authorized by the Kentucky laws to take the action, and that the order must be complied with.

The opinion is published in this issue of the Public Health Reports, pages 2173.

THE SANITATION OF RAILWAY CARS.¹

By THOMAS R. CROWDER, M. D., Chicago.

The object of the sanitation of railway cars is to protect the health of passengers and crews. In order to do this effectively we must first know what the dangers are and how they act.

The dangers of railway travel may be separated into, first, the danger arising from mechanical accidents; second, the danger of contracting infectious diseases; and, third, the danger incident to a group of miscellaneous influences, such as prolonged confinement, uncomfortable seats, the rapid and variable motion of the train, faulty ventilation, heating, and lighting, and the breathing of dust, smoke, and engine gases.

A discussion of mechanical accidents lies rather beyond our present purpose. It is the business of engineers and car builders to guard against them. But the sanitarian may be privileged to insist that cars should be strongly built, able to withstand the enormous shocks to which they are normally subjected, be free from sharp angles and

¹ Read at meeting of the New York Railroad Club, Apr. 21, 1916.